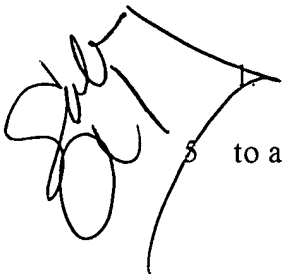


CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:



1. A method in a computer network of controlling an admittance of requests to at least one processing component, said method comprising:
differentiating a type of said requests based on a content in each said request; and
admitting said each request only if said differentiated type meets at least one criterion for admission.

- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
returning a message to a sender of each said request not admitted.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
evaluating at least one criterion in said computer network; and
performing said differentiation based on said evaluation.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein said method is embodied in a software program, wherein said admittance to said at least one processing component is gained through one or more entry points, said method further comprising:
activating said software program in at least one of said one or more entry
5 points.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one processing component comprises a plurality of processing components, said at least one or more entry points comprises a plurality of web servers, and said activation of said software program occurs in each web server in said plurality of web servers, thereby
10 providing an admittance method that is distributed.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein said software program comprises a plugin software module.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one evaluation criterion comprises a measurement of activity on said network.
- 15 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said measurement of activity comprises a measurement of requests to said at least one processing component.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion for admission comprises evaluation of a response time.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
prioritizing said requests within a same type, based on further refinement of
5 said content.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer network comprises a distributed heterogeneous computing environment having a dependency of said processing components represented.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
10 determining a load imposed on a dependee processing component.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said load determination is performed in a central location.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said at least one criterion for admission comprises said determined load on said dependee component.

15 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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associating a user defined response with selected ones of said requests that are not admitted.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein said admission control is applied at a tier to control admittance to a next processing component along a request flow path.

5 17. A method of claim 11, where said at least one criterion for admission comprises a determination that a dependee processing component is not currently available.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a load of a target processing component; and
10 altering a normal response to a request based on said load determination.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein said admitting of said each request is distributed.

20. A method of controlling the admittance of requests to at least one processing component in a distributed heterogeneous computing environment,
15 each said request comprising a direction component and a message component, said method comprising:

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receiving a request;
evaluating at least a part of said message component of said received
request; and
providing an admission of said received request based on said evaluation.

- 5 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said environment comprises a network
and said direction component comprises a location information relative to said
network.

22. The method of 20, further comprising:
evaluating whether said admission evaluation should be performed based
10 on a status of said environment

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said environment status comprises a
measurement of activity in said environment.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein said admission evaluation is distributed at
multiple points in said distributed heterogeneous computing environment.

- 15 25. The method of claim 20, wherein said evaluation of at least a part of said
message component comprises an evaluation of a response time for said request.

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26. A request throttler in a computer network that controls an admittance of requests to at least one processing component, said request throttler comprising:
a differentiator to evaluate a message content of each of said requests; and
a switch to admit said each request only if said evaluation passes at least
5 one criterion for admission.

27. The request throttler of claim 26, wherein said differentiator and said switch comprises a set of computer instructions.

28. The request throttler of claim 27, wherein said set of computer instructions comprises a software plugin.

10 29. The request throttler of claim 26, wherein said differentiator and said switching functions are distributed in said network.

30. A computer-readable medium containing a set of computer-readable instructions for a method in a computer network of controlling an admittance of requests to at least one processing component, said method comprising:
15 differentiating a type of said requests based on a content in each said request; and

admitting said each request only if said differentiated type meets at least one criterion for admission.

31. A computer network comprising:

a request throttler for controlling an admittance of requests to at least one
5 processing component and comprising a differentiator to evaluate a message
content of each of said requests and a switch to admit said each request only if said
evaluation passes at least one criterion for admission.



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